considerations, domestic requirements socio-cultural heritage, environmental and ecological reasons. Changes in Policy are carried-out wherever required to further achieve the above objectives in the larger public interest.

Proposal to stop keeping buffer stock of rubber

7352. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a consequence of GATT treaty government have stopped or propose to stop the system of keeping buffer stock of rubber;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to stop declaration of benchmark price for natural rubber;

(d) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the scheme to help rubber farmers when price of rubber falls steeply?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) A Buffer Stocking scheme is in operation since 1986 with a view to ensure remunerative price to the rubber growers and making available natural rubber to the user industry at a reasonable price. This scheme also provides for market intervention by the Government agencies at appropriate time to ensure the above objectives. There is no proposal to immediately withdraw the scheme.

Seminar Organised by ASSOCHAM

7353. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ASSOCHAM (Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry) recently organised a Seminar on "Trade and investment opportunities in southeast Asia', which was inaugurated by the Minister of Commerce as per report Published in the Hindustan Times dated 25th May, 1994;

(b) what are the details of the recommendations made at the above Seminar indicating proposals mooted regarding Indian value addition units in Southeast Asia; and

(c) what were the total imports from these countries to India during 1987-88 in US dollars as against exports from India and figures of 1993-94 of India's exports as against imports from Southeast Asian countries to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir. A Seminar on "Trade and Investment Opportunities in South East Asia" was organised by ASSOCHAM on 24th May, 1994 in New Delhi to discuss the report of ASSOCHAM business mission to Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia.

(b) Following are some of the major suggestions made in the course of the Seminar to promote trade and investment opportunities with Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia:—

—Holding of commodity specific missions, exhibitions and technical seminars by Indian businessmen to popularise India's products and brand names in Vietnam, besides offering realistic prices and timely delivery of goods.

—Revision of Indian laws to make them more investor friendly.